

European Union Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership Countries



Quarterly Information Update

(January 2018 – March 2018)

Note: A revised format will be developed for the next issue of the Quarterly Information Update

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Disclaimer

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1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

This is the fifth quarterly information update on the implementation of EUWI+. It covers the reporting period from January 2018 to the end of March 2018. The update has been prepared by members of the implementing partners with valuable input from the local project representatives in each country. A list of key contacts can be found in Annex A.

Quarterly updates aim to provide key information on the project to the European Commission, EU Delegations and the key stakeholders of the six Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries. The updates are intended to be published on the project website to provide access to a wider audience including international projects and interested stakeholders. Both country-specific (Part 2) and regional (Part 3) developments are reflected.

1.2 Current Project Status

The project was kicked off through a high level regional meeting held on 19-20 September 2016 in Kyiv, Ukraine and through a series of national kick off meetings held in late 2016. The first Regional Steering Committee Meeting was held in Brussels on 15-16 May 2017 and allowed presentation of a draft version of the inception report and work programmes.

Work has started on key activities in all countries.

Planning is underway for a Regional Progress Meeting in April 2018 and the second Regional Steering Committee to be held in November 2018.

1.3 Objectives of Quarter 5

This first quarter of 2018 had the following objectives:

- Complete work planning for 2018;
- Commence new and continue existing work programme items;
- Implementation of the communication strategy, in particular populating the website;
- Initiate implementation of technical activities related to participative RBM Planning and natural water resources monitoring, including activities related to data management;
- Finalise the assessment reports for laboratories and monitoring systems;
- Complete administrative and legal arrangements for the procurement of laboratory and monitoring equipment; and
- Planning of the progress meeting in Q2 2018 and the second Regional Steering Committee Meeting for Q4 2018.

2. COUNTRY QUARTERLY REPORTS

Part 2 provides further details on the activities in each country.

2.1 Armenia

2.1.1 Missions and technical meetings

- On 26 January 2018 the project Local Coordinator for Armenia attended a seminar on Presenting the Study of Water Utilisation in Ararat Valley, organised in the framework of the USAID project “Participatory Utilisation and Resource Efficiency Water (PURE-WATER) Activity”,
- On January 29-February 1 2018 an IOWater mission developed the TORs for RBMP development part 1 (Activities 2.3.2), finalised the TOR and launched a tender for a local contractor the irrigation water flow monitoring in pilot basin (Activity 2.1.1), discussed the TOR for maintenance of the web server for environmental data management at WRMA (Activity 2.3.6), prepared the terms of reference for implementing the consultation and participative process and validated the global agenda and coordinating the activities under Result 2 and Result 3 of the EUWI+ project.
- On February 5 2018 the project Local Coordinator for Armenia attended the hearing at the National Assembly (Parliament) of Armenia on water sector issues at national level and in Ararat valley, chaired by the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Territorial Development Issues of the National Assembly of Armenia. The meeting agreed priorities on key legal issues in water resources management.
- On February 15 2018 the project Local Coordinator for Armenia participated in a donor coordination meeting with USAID PURE-WATER Project, USAID ASPIRED Program and the World Bank.
- On March 20-22 2018 the project Local Coordinator for Armenia joined the IOWater mission to Khrami River Basin of Georgia, and as part of the process of RBMP development for Khrami River basin. He also attended consultation meetings with local administrations in Dmanisi and Bolnisi cities.
- On March 28-30 2018, a mission of the EUWI+ project Technical Advisor and the Coordinator for the Caucasus sub-region was held during which meetings were held with the representatives of the State Committee on Water Systems (Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources), Water Resources Management Agency, Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre (both under the Ministry of Nature Protection) and the Hydro-meteorological Service (Ministry of Emergency Situations). During the meetings issues related to EMIC lab relocation and refurbishment, surface and groundwater delineation, irrigation flow monitoring, and strengthening of hydrological monitoring in the pilot basins were discussed.
- On March 27, 2018 a web-meeting was organised to introduce Armenian colleagues to the procurement process and to provide guidance on the elaboration of technical specifications for the procurement of laboratory instruments in line with EU requirements.

2.1.2 EUWI+ project progress

- Two national experts were hired by UNECE in February 2018 in the context of the National Water Policy Dialogue in Armenia, to help the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and other beneficiary organisations in developing a roadmap for implementation of the requirements of the 5 Water Directives according to the CEPA agreement, signed between Armenia and the EU on 24 November 2017.

- Rapid assessment report of the current relevance of the targets and targets dates set in the context of the Protocol on Water and Health in Armenia in 2013-2014 was finalized as a follow up to the Consultation meeting held in December 2017.
- A local contractor was hired in March by UNECE to organise the process of the revision of targets under the Protocol on Water and Health and implementation of selected measures from the Action Plan on ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation in Armenia.
- In March 2018 a study on the reform of “harmful” subsidies in the irrigation sector of Armenia was launched in the context of the National Water Policy Dialogue in Armenia. The study will support strengthening water use efficiency in Armenia, look into different models and economic instruments, and pave the way towards sustainable water use in irrigation.
- The terms of reference for the local contractor for “Preparation of Detailed Assessment of Modern Flow Measurement Equipment Needs for Irrigation Water Accounting in Sevan and Hrazdan Pilot Basins of Armenia” was finalised. The official tender for the services was organised and the contract was signed on 23 February 2018. By the end of March 2018, a preliminary report in Armenian language was developed by the local contractor, and discussions were organised at the State Committee on Water Systems.
- The terms of reference for the local contractor for “Preparation of Detailed Cost Estimates for the EMIC Laboratory Relocation to New Premises” was finalised. The official tender for the services was organised and the contract was signed on 16 March 2018.
- Terms of reference for the local contractor for “Development of Draft River Basin Management Plans for Sevan/Hrazdan River Basins in Armenia: Part 1 - Characterisation Phase” was prepared, agreed with Water Resources Management Agency and tendered. The deadline for submission of technical and financial proposals is 3 April 2018 for a provisional start at the end of April.
- Terms of reference for the local contractor for “Delineation of Groundwater Bodies and the Design/Revision of Groundwater Monitoring Network in the EUWI+ Pilot Basins in Armenia” was prepared, agreed with the Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre, and tendered. The deadline for submission of technical and financial offers is 17 April 2018.
- Draft terms of reference for the local contractor for “Surface water identification, delineation and assessment” was prepared and discussed with the Hydrometeorological Service. A corresponding workplan and roadmap for surface water identification and delineation was elaborated.
- Preparations of the Terms of References for a local contractor to collect data and information regarding the Lake Sevan have started. Successful realisation will prepare the ground for the following delineation works.
- In line with Activity 2.1.3 (technical support) participation in proficiency testings (PT) of the Environmental Monitoring and Information Center (EMIC) was realised for the first time. EMIC participated in PT M140 (metals) and N140 (nutrients).
- A prefiguration of a national communication & visibility action plan was developed based on the provision of the Armenian water code and the WFD and validated with the national representative.

2.1.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The next NPD Steering Committee meeting is tentatively planned for 19 June 2018.

2.1.4 Recent developments

- On 25 January 2018 the Government of Armenia adopted the Resolution “On Defining New Methodology for Setting Environmental Flow”. The key difference of the new methodology is that it takes into consideration hydrobiological factors, as well as providing monthly and seasonal

flow, whereas the old methodology set only one fixed number throughout the whole year, without taking into consideration the dynamics and seasonal changes of the flows in the rivers.

- On 25 January 2018 the Government of Armenia Protocol Session Resolution No 3-18 was adopted “On Approving the Concept Paper on Development of the State Environmental Monitoring”. The Concept Paper includes provisions on surface and groundwater quantity and quality monitoring and lays the principle of an ecosystem based approach of environmental monitoring, with an implication of monitoring hydrobiological parameters in the rivers, as required by the EU WFD. As a follow-up to the Concept Paper, the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia will prepare a programme of measures for its implementation.
- On 2 March 2018, the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia adopted a package of amendments to the Water Code of Armenia, including adding a new chapter on sanitation. Two national consultants, hired in the context of National Water Policy Dialogue in Armenia in the beginning of 2017, have also participated in developing this package of amendments to the Water Code.

2.2 Azerbaijan

2.2.1 Missions and technical meetings

- On 8-10 January 2018, a mission of the EUWI Local Representative in Azerbaijan took place to Beylagan and Gazakh cities to review the state of regional laboratories of the MENR.
- With support of EUWI+, 4 representatives of MENR regional Laboratories in Gazakh and Beylagan attended the UNDP GEF laboratory training in Baku on February 12-14 and March 13-14.
- On February 26-27, the EUWI+ Local Representative attended UNDP GEF training on steps for development of RBMP and the main requirements of WFD.
- The Project Representative for R2&3 attended project EUWI+ team meeting in Tbilisi during March 19-21 2018 to discuss RBMP development work and communication and stakeholder management activities including regional coordination issues.
- The Project Representative for R2&3 conducted technical meetings with project focal Point Issa Aiyev in the MENR on 2 March 2018 to locate EUWI+ project information on the web page of MENR (<http://eco.gov.az/en/1081-euwi>) and to discuss the organisation of data management (purchase of a web-server and analysis of the data availability based on the development of a metadata base).
- On March 6-7, 9, 13-15 and 27-28 meetings were conducted with beneficiary institutions to discuss GW, SW and CW delineation activities and also overall project activities.
- On March 28, 2018 a web-meeting has been organised to introduce the colleagues in Azerbaijan into the procurement process and to provide guidance on the elaboration of technical specifications for the procurement of laboratory instruments in line with EU requirements.
- Draft assessment report of the needs and identification of priorities in implementation of the RBMPs related to activity 2.3.1 was shared with the NFP before dissemination.

2.2.2 EUWI+ project progress

- The EUWI+ project work plan for Azerbaijan was finalised during the project team visit to Baku in January and submitted to beneficiaries. Work is ongoing to purchase and install a web server for MENR premises to develop a water database. Work is also ongoing to refurbish laboratories of MENR with new equipment to be purchased by EUWI+.

- A meeting was conducted with beneficiaries and thematic leaders of EUWI + and also with the EU Delegation in Azerbaijan to increase visibility of the project through location of information on project activities at relevant beneficiary web pages.
- Development of a stakeholder management strategy for Kura upstream of Mingechavir Dam pilot river basin area was been discussed with beneficiaries and it was agreed to finalise it in coming months.
- A coordination meeting was conducted with UNDP GEF Kura II project to discuss issues of cooperation between the two projects, including supporting transboundary water management related cooperation between Georgia and Azerbaijan.
- Discussion on procurement of laboratory equipment for 3 laboratories is ongoing.
- Consultations on the adoption and publishing of the national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health are ongoing, as well as discussions on holding a workshop on equitable access to water and sanitation in Azerbaijan, back to back with the NPD Steering Committee meeting.
- According to Activity 2.1.3 (technical support) the first participation on proficiency testings (PT) took place. Environmental Pollution Monitoring Center, Baku participated in PT N140 (nutrients).
- Preparations for the workshop on “Determination of transitional and coastal water bodies in the EUWI+ pilot area”, which will be held on April 4 + 5, 2018 in Baku, were successfully completed.

2.2.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The next NPD Steering Committee meeting is tentatively planned for 22 May 2018.

2.2.4 Recent developments

- SW and GW Delineation road-maps have been reviewed and approved by beneficiary institutions.
- The project has published a ToR for GW delineation works for local companies on the web page of the project and MENR. ToRs for delineation of surface waters will be published soon.
- The RBMP ToR for Kura upstrea Mingachavir dam was published on the project website and MENR webpage, the Tender Dossier was distributed to interested companies.
- The ToR to extend the Central Kura basin communication strategy and plan to the entire upstream Kura pilot sub-district has been developed.
- Development of a draft agreement for the purchase of a web-server jointly with the EU Twinning project on upgrading the National Environmental Monitoring System of Azerbaijan

2.3 Belarus

2.3.1 Missions and technical meetings

- On 26 February-2 March 2018, a mission of IOW provided the RBMP Planning activities. Meetings were held with experts of the Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources and the NFP Ms. T. Slizh. During the mission 3 ToRs for refinement the EPIRB RBMP of the Dnieper were prepared and approved by the NFP.
- On 27-28 March 2018, a mission of UBA held meetings with experts of the Republican Centre of Analytical Control in the Field of Environmental Protection. The updated laboratory assessment report & workplan 2018 were prepared including new list of laboratory equipment; the bottom sediment sampling course was roughly planned which will be held in June/July 2018 and the preparatory meeting will be 23-25 May 2018; the guidance document for pro-

curement was presented as well as technical specifications for laboratory equipment discussed.

- On 30 March 2018, a mission of IOW visited Belarus to support a forthcoming high-level regional workshop in Minsk which will be held on 25-26 April 2018 in particular on communication and visibility issues.

2.3.2 EUWI+ project progress

- Activities at local level (in Kopyl rayon) led by the OECD continued: a draft interim report was produced identifying the most water intensive enterprises in the rayon for which new technological water consumption norms should be developed.
- A ToR for a new OECD-led activity on drafting a methodology for monitoring 6 nationalised indicators related to SDG 6 was prepared, a local consultancy for implementing this work was identified (CRICUWR) and contract signed.
- 3 ToRs for refinement of the RBMP of Dnieper were finalised and uploaded to the EUWI+ web-Site for tender procedure.
- The ToR for delineation of groundwater bodies and groundwater monitoring network design was finalised and uploaded to the EUWI+ web-Site for tender procedure. The deadline for submission of technical and financial offers is 11 April 2018.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus nominated 6 specialists of the chemical laboratories for participation in the training seminar in Tbilisi 24-26 April 2018.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection supported the proposal on organising an EUWI+ project management meeting and regional workshop on strategic and mid-term planning for water in Minsk on 25-26 April 2018. Representatives of the oblast Committees of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection will be invited for the first day of workshop.
- Final report of the Belarus-Lithuania expert group on transboundary cooperation in the Neman River basin entitled “Development of priority components for the Neman international river basin management plan” was submitted by UNECE to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus and the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania in March.
- Following the request from the National Focal Point, UNECE is currently preparing Terms of Reference for the process of the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Draft Water Resources Management Strategy in the conditions of the changing climate until 2030. Draft assessment report of the needs and identification of priorities in implementation of the RBMPs related to activity 2.3.1 was shared with the NFP before dissemination.
- Laboratory assessments report was approved by the national focal point for laboratories as well as the work plan for 2018; national co-authors were nominated.
- Preparations for the regional workshop on “method validation, measurement uncertainty and metrological traceability in accordance with EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017”, which will be held on April 24 to 26, 2018 in Tbilisi for participants from laboratory practitioners from BY/MD/GE, were started

2.3.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The National Policy Dialogue for Belarus will be initiated following project registration.
- The date of first meeting of the NPD will be selected after hosting the high-level regional workshop in Minsk

2.3.4 Recent developments

- According to the letter № 9-2-1/1248 from 14. March 2018 of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus to the Secretariat Water Convention, the Head of Department of Water Use and Protection Ms. Tatyana Slizh was appointed the new Focal Point (instead of Mr. S. Zavyalov) for cooperation with the Water Convention.
- Updated documents required for the EUWI+ project registration in Belarus were submitted to the Department for International Co-operation of Ministry of Economy. The Ministry of Economy has requested some additional documents concerning annexes to the contract between the EC and UBA
- Order 42-OD dated 09.02.2018 of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus cancelled Order. № 55-OD dated 01.03.2017 «About creation multiministerial council for use and protection of the water resources».

2.4 Georgia

2.4.1 Missions and technical meetings

- On 22-25 January 2018, a River Basin Management Planning (RBMP) and project management mission led by IOW was conducted to advance development of a ToR and technical specification for the pilot Alazani-Khrami RBMP and finalise the EUWI+ work plan for Results 2&3.
- Within the frame of this mission, two technical meetings were held with participation of IOW and the EUWI+ R2&3 Local Project Representative for Georgia on:
 - 24 January 2018 in the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture, with the Head of Integrated Environmental Management, Mr Gizo Chelidze and Head of Water Resources Division, Ms Mariam Makarova. Points of discussion included: status of the project implementation in Georgia and the region to the date; information on the status of Laboratory and Monitoring Assessments, delivered to the beneficiaries recently; proposed logistics and timeline of launching RBMP activities in Georgia - first for the Alazani-ori and the Chorokhi coastal strip, and later for the Khrami-Debed; schedule and composition of the major RBM Planning phases in conjunction with the ongoing institutional and structural changes in Georgia and the Ministry; training package, as well as stakeholder involvement and public consultations for local basin authorities and stakeholders in Georgia. It was concluded that the preparation of the RBMP, as well as tendering procedures, would continue as planned, but the training sessions for the implementing agencies and the local responsible personnel could be delayed slightly.
 - 25 January 2018 with the Head of National Environmental Agency, Ms Tamar Bagratia to present the project progress results, discuss the Laboratory and Monitoring Assessment details and comments to the list of the proposed laboratory and monitoring equipment for NEA. The team discussed the possibility of amending the list of equipment for NEA's Fisheries and Black Sea Monitoring Department, in particular a type of a vessel for monitoring of biological and chemical quality elements in the Transitional and Coastal Waters. It was concluded that the Laboratory and Monitoring Assessments are in full compliance with the country expectations; proposed lab and surface water monitoring equipment are accepted and the NEA experts shall provide technical specifications of the equipment, to advance with the tender procedures. Possible support for groundwater monitoring will be considered after initial delineation and field survey of GWBs in the pilot area (end of 2018). UBA and the EUWI+ project team will discuss requested changes to the list of equipment (sampling vessel) for the Fisheries and Black Sea Monitoring.

- On 29 January-2 February 2018, an EUWI+ RBM Planning and Coordination mission was held in Azerbaijan, Baku, with the participation of R2&3 Country Representative and Caucasus Coordination Expert Mr Zurab Jincharadze. The mission was dedicated for overall project management and planning issues, including discussion with the national beneficiaries and development of the EUWI+ activities' workplan for Azerbaijan for the Results 2&3; Coordination meeting with the UNDP-GEF Kura II project to discuss synergy and compliance of the two projects; Discuss/plan tendering procedures and implementation steps for Alazani Basin (transboundary with GE) and Upper Kura RBMPs in Azerbaijan.
- A general project management mission, led by the UBA was held in Georgia on 5-6 February 2018. The meetings related to the overall project progress in Georgia and procedures of upcoming equipment procurement for Georgian beneficiary were held on 5 February at NEA with the Agency Head Ms Tamar Bagratia and the project NFP /Head of Integrated Management Department Mr Gizo Chelidze. On 6 February the meeting was also held in the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA) of Georgia, with Deputy Minister Ms Nino Tandilashvili, Head of Water Resources Management Division Ms Mariam Makarova, Head of NEA Ms Tamar Bagratia and MEPA's Legal Department representatives. Technical issues related to the drafting of the Government Memorandum package for the approval by Government of Georgia were discussed. The package will include MoU between UBA and MEPA, budget information on the project spending for activities in Georgia, legal contract between the EU and Member States Consortium and the Description of Actions (DoA) of the Project to be translated and authorised.
- With support of EUWI+, 3 representatives of regional laboratories attended the UNDP GEF laboratory training in Tbilisi in February and March.
- The Project Representative and Senior Water Expert for R2&3 conducted technical meetings: on 19 February 2018 with the MEPA Integrated Management and Environmental Policy and International Relation Departments and on 20 February, 2018 in the MEPA Deputy Minister's Office to present the detailed project activities and plans for 2018 in Georgia and the region.
- An RBM Planning and Communication mission to Georgia was held on March 20-23, led by International Office for Water (IOW). Meetings discussed the planned activities and project progress in Georgia with the following entities:
 - Department of Environment and Climate Change (including Water Division, which according to the new structure is now part of this Department), Department of Environmental Supervision (Chief Inspectorate), Department of Environmental Impacts, Centre of Environmental Information and Education. On 22-23 March field visits to the Khrami-Debed RBMP District of Georgia was organized with the participation of IOW and the EUWI+ local project representatives for R1 and R2&3 and MEPA's Kvemo Kartli Regional Office of the Environmental Supervision Department. The meetings were held at local municipal offices of the Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Tsalka and Tetri Tskaro Municipal Districts, with the representatives of self-governance, water supply companies, representatives of irrigation sector, infrastructure units, local Public Relations officers, local media, etc. The aim of the field mission was to inform local stakeholders on upcoming activities and raise their interest on expected results that development of River Basin Management Plan, including specific activities that Programme of Measure would initiate in the region; to learn from the stakeholders about pressing issues related to water and basin management and plan follow up activities in the basin.
- On March 26, 2018 a web-meeting has been organised to introduce Georgian colleagues to the procurement process and to provide guidance on the elaboration of technical specifications for the procurement of laboratory instruments in line with EU requirements.

- On 27-28 March 2018, a UNECE team mission was conducted to Georgia. The aim of the mission was to review and update country priorities in line with new institutional setting of the water sector in Georgia, as well as to discuss current activities and future plans of the EUWI+ project under Result 1. Meetings were held with participation of UNECE team and EUWI+ R1 Representative with the following:
 - On 27 March a meeting with the newly appointed Deputy Minister of the Environment Protection and Agriculture (MEPA) Ms. Nino Tandilashvili and Head of Department of Environment and Climate Change Ms. Nino Tkhilava and Head of Water Division Ms. Mariam Makarova was held. During the meeting future plans and visions of the MEPA regarding to water sector, including process of adoption of draft Law on Water Resources Management, situation towards bilateral agreements and UNECE Protocol on Water and Health were discussed. A tentative date and issues for the NPD meeting were marked as end of May or middle of June. In addition the Deputy Minister and meeting participants underlined the importance of EUWI+ in line with institutional changes and the process of adoption of new legislation of water resources management and gave high priority to the ongoing and planned project activities under R1, such as review of the existing draft normative act on Water Quality Ecological Standards for Georgia”; development of concept document on “Suggestions regarding an institutional model for RBM structure for Georgia” and the ongoing activity - „Development of a policy paper providing a vision for further policy developments in preparing the National Water Strategy of Georgia”.
 - On 28 March a separate meeting with the Head of the Water Division Ms. Mariam Makarova was held to discuss technical details of priority activities for 2018 and tentative content of the next NPD meeting.
- On 28-30 March 2018 EUWI+ Planning and Coordination mission was held in Armenia, Yerevan, with the participation of R2&3 Country Representative and Caucasus Coordination Expert Mr Zurab Jincharadze and the Project International Technical Advisor Mr Tim Turner. Aim of the mission was to discuss RBMP and GW/SW Delineation tendering procedures, as well as assess the progress made in Armenia for implementation of the project goals.

2.4.2 EUWI+ project progress

- Project Registration/the Government Memorandum is in progress. Documentation is prepared and translated to the national language; initial discussions were held with the key beneficiary institutions.
- The Project activities for R2&3 in general are on track. There is slight delay in finalisation of ToRs and tendering of the planned SW and GW Delineation and the RBM Planning.
- Terms of References for Surface Water Delineation and Groundwater body Delineation and Characterisation have been drafted and reviewed by the project team and beneficiary representatives. The deadline for submission of technical and financial offers for groundwater is 17 April 2018.
- Tendering procedures for Alazani-Iori RBMP in Georgia, as well GW Delineation both for Alazani-Iori and Khrami-Debed Basins, have been discussed and approved by the project technical team and are published on the project website, as well as distributed by RECC and CENN newsletters. In addition, a link to the EUWI+ tender page and information were uploaded to the Ministry’s webpage.
- Discussion on the proposed equipment and procurement list for the NEA Fisheries and Black Sea Monitoring Department is still under progress.

- Translation to national language of the document on “Analyses on Harmonisation of the Georgian Draft Water Law with Other Related Legislative Acts” is in progress. The Georgian version of this document will be submitted to the Water Division (of the MEPA) in mid-April.
- The work continues to draft a policy paper providing a vision for further policy developments in preparing the National Water Strategy of Georgia. The policy paper will cover two main areas: 1) review and analysis of water policy currently undertaken by the Government of Georgia, and 2) identification of prerequisites for the water reform and key focus areas of the future national water strategy in Georgia.
- Preparation of TOR for a consultant to review the draft Regulation on approval of water quality ecological standards and draft Decree of Government "Rules of Planning and Implementation of Water Resources Monitoring" launched by UNECE.
- According to activity 2.1.3 (technical support) the first participation on proficiency testings (PT) took place. NEA's laboratory for Atmospheric Air, Water and Soil Analyses participated in PT M140 (metals) and N140 (nutrients).
- Draft assessment report of the needs and identification of priorities in implementation of the RBMPs related to activity 2.3.1. was shared with Project Coordinator before dissemination.

2.4.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The Next NPD Steering Committee meeting is tentatively planned for the end of May or middle of June 2018.

2.4.4 Recent developments

- Institutional changes with the main beneficiary, formerly Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, is still on-going. The new structure of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia was finalised and published in mid-March. According to the new structure, the Division of Water was moved to the Department of Environment and Climate Change. The responsibilities and duties of the Water Division are water management policy and legislation development. Water resources quantity and quality regulation issues were separated from the Water Division and merged to the Department of Environment Impact Permit.
- Laboratory and Monitoring Assessments were developed and accepted by beneficiary institutions; RBMP Assessment is in progress; the draft version has been submitted to the main beneficiary institutions – Water Division of MEPA's Environment and Climate Change Department and National Environmental Agency.
- SW and GW Delineation road-maps have been drafted and presented to the beneficiary institutions for their feedback and approval.

2.5 Republic of Moldova

2.5.1 Missions and technical meetings

- On 22-26 January 2018, a River Basin Management Planning (RBMP) and project management mission was conducted by IOW. The mission aimed to prepare a ToR for refinement of Danube-Prut and Black Sea (DPBS) River District characterisation and discuss with stakeholders a draft of work plan for 2018 regarding planning activities and related training sessions. A group of RBMP drafters was also pre-identified as a target for the trainings related to RBM Planning.
- On 23 January a working meeting with the State Enterprise Basin Water Management Authority (BWMA) was held. The BWMA is currently implementing a project together with AAM and in coordination with an Italian Local public authority from Orvieto and an NGO from Umbria Region. The objective of the project is to develop a "River Contract" for Botna river basin and develop infrastructures on a river sub-basin with funding from the EU on "Cross border cooperation" and "HARD projects". BWMA will support AAM, IFP and EUWI+ projects in the establishment and activities of sub-basin committees. BWMA made a proposal to include University teachers to the trainees group for RBMP drafters, in order to support sustainability and dissemination.
- On 24 January 2018 a meeting with the Department of Integrated Water Management Policy from MARDE was organised where the status of the DPBS RBMP was discussed. The DPBS RBMP is still not yet approved (contrary to the Dniester river district management plan approved in 2017) even though some measures are already being implemented. It is still not approved due to some remarks and oppositions from the State Chancellery concerning the structure of the plan. It has been requested to review the Programme of measures (in particular the costing) and to have the plan approved by the River Basin Committee before sending it again to the Government for approval.
- On 25 January 2018 a technical meeting was held with employees from Agency Apele Moldovei and the State Enterprise Basin Water Management Authority (BWMA) for training planning. The group of RBMP drafters was pre-identified and discussed with stakeholders.
- On 1 February, a working meeting was held with the Director of the Agency of Geology and Mineral Resources and its employees to discuss the draft work plan for organising trainings, expeditions and drafting a new monitoring programme for ground water in 2018.
- On 22-26 February 2018, a River Basin Management Planning (RBMP) and overall project management mission to Moldova was organised by IOW. This mission gave the opportunity to finalise and validate with the beneficiaries the terms of references for the refinement of the Danube, Prut and Black Sea (DPBS) river basin characterisation. Coordination has been ensured with other international projects e.g. the IFP project funded by ADA-SDC, Nirnova project funded by French institutions, which is developing a model of inter-municipalities governance for WSS management at the sub-basin scale.
- On 26-27 February 2018, a mission under activity 2.2.1 was organised by UBA. The key goal was the visit and in-depth assessment of laboratories for hydrobiology from State Hydrometeorological Service (SHS) in terms of: Instrumental needs for WFD compliant monitoring—input for procurement, personnel and institutional resources, competencies, capacities, check of data availability regarding MONERIS, Identification of training needs, discussion dates for workshop and survey (technical, others). A draft road map for surface water delineation and monitoring was sent to stakeholders for comment.
- During 5-8 March 2018 a mission regarding purchase of equipment, rehabilitation and upgrade of existing equipment and existing laboratories was held by UBA. This mission gave the opportunity to agree with beneficiaries on selection of co-authors and next steps to finalise the assessment report as well as the workplan for 2018. The co-author of the assessment re-

port was confirmed as Ms Natalia Zgircu on behalf the Surface Water Quality Monitoring Center of the State Hydrometeorological Service. The first version of the technical specifications drafted by the SHS laboratory and reviewed by UBA was discussed as well as and the guidance document for the tendering procedure.

- During 19-21 March 2018, a project mission led by UBA held meetings with SHS and all stakeholders at the MARDE. The work and investment plans were discussed and approved by beneficiaries and the NFP, including all upcoming events and workshops, organising the tender for procurement of laboratory equipment. A meeting with the EU Delegation was also organised to provide an update on project progress.
- On 26-29 March 2018 an IOW mission under Result 3 was held. The main results were a meeting with beneficiaries and ADA/SDC project representatives to help organise the Danube-Prut and Black Sea Basin Committee meeting planned for 4 April 2018. A meeting with a local NGO was held to develop a Communication Strategy for pilot river basin districts. A meeting with ADA and EU Delegation was also organised to support upcoming planned activities as celebrating Europe Day and other environmental events within MARDE.
- On 22-23 March 2018, UNECE held meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, Ministry of Health, EU Delegation, UNDP-, representatives of SDC and ADA (IFP Project). The aim of the mission was to discuss the results of the inception phase of the project and activities under Result 1 of the project. This included support of the Protocol on Water and Health implementation and support to drafting/revising water legislation/normative acts/policy documents.
- In the period of 26-29 March the first mission of a Consultancy hired by the OECD was organised in the frame of the project for developing the mid-term Action Plan for water supply and sanitation. During this mission, meetings were held with beneficiary institutions (MARDE, Agency Apele Moldovei) and representatives of donor organisations implementing water supply and sanitation projects (SDC, ADA, GIZ). All meetings focussed on issues concerning water supply and sanitation sector development and recommendations for improvement of the existing policy framework.

2.5.2 EUWI+ project progress

- The OECD completed the tender procedure for consultancy services to develop the project concept for the mid-term Action Plan to support the implementation of the Strategy on Water Supply and Sanitation of the Republic of Moldova. A consortium of Alpha Plus Consulting Company (Armenia), leader, and Aqua Pro (Austria) was selected for implementing this work.
- On 15 February, MARDE presented additional proposals to the Work Plan for Moldova under the result areas: Harmonisation of the national water legislation with EU directives and Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health. These proposals were further discussed during the mission of UNECE to Moldova, on 22 March, 2018.
- Discussions with MARDE on the TOR for a consultant to prepare next round of amendments to the Water Law (No. 272) currently ongoing.
- UNECE is developing TOR for a local contractor to organize the work on the revision of the National Programme to implement the Protocol on Water and Health until 2025 and implement some of its measures.
- Temporary new norms for design and construction of small-scale water supply systems were finalised and a draft Ordinance on approving the norms was prepared in the frame of OECD work conducted under the NPD on water policy in Moldova. Early in April the new norms were approved by the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure of the Republic of Moldova (Ordinance # 179 dated 4 April, 2018).

- At the end of January, a draft investment plan for procurement and all activities under Results 2 and 3 was sent to all stakeholders for comments.
- The first draft of a ToR for refinement of the Danube-Prut and Black Sea River District characterisation was established and translated into Romanian and shared with stakeholders for feedback.
- A ToR for supporting the update of delineation of groundwater bodies and design of a groundwater monitoring network in the DPBS River District was published on project and Agency of Geology and Mineral Resources web pages and sent to interested institutions. The deadline for submission of technical and financial offers is 18 April 2018.
- Under Result 3, an information leaflet of project activities was prepared and shared with stakeholders.
- According to activity 2.1.3 (technical support) the first participation on proficiency testings (PT) took place. State Hydrometeorological Service (SHS), Surface Water Quality Monitoring Center participated in PT M140 (metals) and N140 (nutrients).
- Two lots of chemical reagents, gases and materials, which are need for new operations and tests in line with WFD requirements, were purchased for the State Hydrometeorological Service in Chisinau from local suppliers.

2.5.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The next meeting of CC of NPD in Moldova is scheduled for Quarter 2 2018. The exact date will be coordinated with the National Focal Point (NFP) for the project, State Secretary of MARDE (Ms Tapis).

2.5.4 Recent developments

- On 10 January 2018 a new Minister of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment was appointed, Mr. Liviu Volconovici.
- On 15 February 2018, by an official letter signed by the Minister of MARDE, Ms. Valentina Tapis, State Secretary responsible for environmental issues was officially nominated as National Focal Point for the EUWI+ project in Moldova.
- On 22 March 2018, by the Ordinance of Minister no. 64, the new composition of the Coordination Committee of the NPD in Moldova as well as its updated regulation was approved.
- As from March 19 2018, an OECD contract with the local representative of Result 1 of the EUWI+ project in Moldova was terminated. A new local representative of Result 1 is being hired as per the recommendation of the NFP for EUWI+ in Moldova.
- A new Environmental Agency should be established in the spring of 2018.
- The Concept of the National Water Supply and Sanitation Plan (NWSSP) for the Republic of Moldova was prepared with support of ApaSan/Swiss water supply and sanitation Project. It was developed further into the Project Proposal and Financing Strategy for NWSSP with support of the World Bank. It was prepared to be used by the Government of Moldova, via State Chancellery, and is planned to be submitted for a funding request to the EU Delegation in Chisinau. The status of the documents was discussed during a high level round Table Meeting “*Service Delivery for Universal Water and Sanitation – Status and Future Directions*”, organised by the World Bank, in Chisinau, on March 23 2018. The EUWI+ project representatives also attended the event.
- On 22 February 2018 the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted a law on amending Article 29 of the Law no. 303 of 2013 on the terms of connection agreements for water sup-

ply and sanitation. MARDE is also in process of promoting a **draft law** containing more complex proposals for revising and amending the Law no. 303 – the draft law is currently at the stage of public consultation.

- In accordance with the ongoing Central Public Administration Reform in Moldova, all line ministries should transfer the policy implementation competencies to subordinate institutions. With the merger of former line ministries (Agriculture and Food Industry, Regional Development and Constructions and Environment) competencies for the implementation of environment and regional development policies and administration of respective funds is to be transferred to a new Agency. In this context, a draft Government Decision and Regulation on the new National Agency for Administration of the National Fund for Regional Development and National Ecological Fund was developed by MARDE. The document was also shared with the OECD for comment under the scope of Result 1.
- On 5 April 2018, a preparatory meeting for the establishment of the bilateral Moldovan-Ukrainian Dniester Commission under the 2012 Dniester Treaty was held in Chisinau. UNECE provided substantive inputs to the meeting.

2.6 Ukraine

2.6.1 Missions and technical meetings

- On 13–16 February 2018, an IOW and UBA mission on River Basin Management Planning (RBMP) and Ground water monitoring were conducted to advance development of a ToR and technical specification for the pilot Dnipro RBMP and finalise development of the EUWI+ activities work plan for Ukraine for Results 2&3. Three main technical meetings were held with participation of the R2&3 Representative for Ukraine, on:
 - 13 February 2018 with Mr Myhaylo Khorev Deputy of Head of State agency of water resources (SAWR), Mr Valerii Babchuk Head of Department of Coordinate Activities of Territorial Authorities (SAWR), Ms Olga Lysuk Head of Water Resources Management Department (SAWR) and Mr Volodymyr Bilokon, Reform Support Team Coordinator and EUWI+ Project Coordinator in MENR. Points of discussion included: status of the project implementation; status of Laboratory and Monitoring Assessments;; proposed thematics and timeline for RBMP activities in the frame of Deputy Minister Kuzio's letter; stakeholder's involvement and public consultations for local basin authorities. It was concluded that the preparation of the first phases of Dnipro RBMP, as well as tendering procedures, will be developed as planned.
 - On February 13, 2018, the State Service of Geology and Subsoil of Ukraine hosted a meeting with EUWI+ groundwater experts from UBA, with active participation by the state enterprise 'Geoinform of Ukraine'. Mr Oleg Kirilyuk, the Acting Chairman of the State Service, assured that the organisation is ready to cooperate with EU partners in the framework of the project and that it fully shares and supports the project objectives of helping to develop a management plan for the Dnipro river basin.
 - 14 February 2018, a meeting in MENR with Mr Mykola Kuzio Deputy Minister of European Integration and Vladyslav Marushevskyy Head of Division for International Technical Assistance, Mr Myhaylo Khorev, Deputy Head SAWR and Mr Volodymyr Bilokon, RST coordinator. The Dnipro RBMP development, work plan and timeframe for the implementation of the RBMP were discussed. Also Result 3 presented the ToR of the Communication strategy which was agreed by MENR. The Deputy Minister made a request for support to meet obligations under the ICPDR in particular the support to Ukraine expert attendance to the ICPDR Working Group.

- On 19-23 March 2018, an OECD mission was conducted with purposes:
 - Discussion with Volodymyr Bilokon and Nataliia Zakorchevna on preparing the next National Policy Dialogue meeting in Ukraine in June 2018 and the preparation of the concept of the National Water Strategy delivered under Result 1.
 - Participation in the Water working group meeting in the MENR to discuss a new draft of the Cabinet Ministry of Ukraine Order “Reforming water resources management system in Ukraine”.
- On 20-23 March 2018 an UBA mission held 2-days of Laboratory accreditation training for representatives of Ukraine laboratories .In the course of the training workshop, an introduction into the procurement process and guidance on the elaboration of technical specifications for the procurement of laboratory instruments in line with EU requirements has been provided.
- On 28-30 March 2018, an IOW Database management mission was conducted to hold technical meetings the EUWI+ R2&3 Representative for Ukraine.

2.6.2 EUWI+ project progress

- On 21-22 March 2018, a 2-day workshop “The basics of working with laboratories and the basics of quality management standards” was held in Kyiv under support of UBA.
- On 23 March 2018, preliminary agreement was achieved among representatives of contra parts of beneficiaries of Ukraine laboratories and UBA regarding finalisation of Laboratory assessment report, next steps on laboratory support activities by EUWI+ in Ukraine and the list of equipment for the laboratories of Dnipro river basin authority (SAWR), Central Geophysical Observatory (Hydrometcentre), State Enterprise of Geology (State Geonadra). The beneficiaries also raised the need for strengthening the BUVR in Vysghorod for analysis of priority substances. The equipment lists in the assessment report will sent to Ms Nataliia Osadcha, thematic lead for laboratories for final approval. In addition, the guidance document prepared by UBA on the procurement procedure and technical specifications was presented and discussed together with the template for the technical specifications.
- On 24 March 2018, Term of references for the local contractor “Development of draft river basin management plan for Dnipro river basin in Ukraine: phase 1, step 1 – Description of the characteristics of the river basin” was prepared, updated, published on the project website and disseminated among beneficiary organisations and the EU Delegation.
- On 28 March 2018, a “Baseline study report on current situation with implementation of the Protocol Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention in Ukraine” was approved by members of the Protocol Working Group of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine. The report was prepared by UNEGO “MAMA 86” contracted by UNECE under Result 1.
- The tender of the Communication strategy assignment for the Dnipro basin in Ukraine was conducted.
- On 28 March 2018, Term of references for “Identification and delineation of groundwater bodies in the whole Dnipro River Basin District in Ukraine” was finalised and uploaded to the EUWI+ web-Site for tender procedure and disseminated among beneficiary organisations and the EU Delegation. The deadline for submission of technical and financial offers is 18 April 2018.
- The next phase of the activity on the “Preparation of draft revised national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health and their implementation plan (March- November 2018)” was initiated. The contract between UNECE and the local contractor for this purpose was signed in March.
- In March, UNECE and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources agreed on the list of national experts, whose participation in meetings under ICPDR will be supported through EUWI+.

- The Concept of Dnipro Day celebration was planned to be discussed with SAWR, MENR and Belarus representatives.
- According to activity 2.1.3 (technical support) the first participation on proficiency testings (PT) took place. Ukraine Hydrometeorological Institute participated in PT M140 (metals).
- Draft Assessment report on the needs and identification of priorities in implementation of the RBMPs related to activity 2.3.1 was shared with the Project Coordinator before dissemination.

2.6.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The next NPD is expected to be in June 2018 with key discussion points as: achievements of EUWI+ project in Ukraine, discussion first draft of targets on the Protocol of Water and Health, reforming of the water management system in Ukraine and the draft concept of the National Water Strategy.

2.6.4 Recent developments

- On February 13 2018, a meeting of the Water monitoring working group took place at the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine on conciliation of the draft resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on "Approval of the Implementation Procedure of State monitoring of water".
- The Result 1 Local Representative took part in INE SEIS II 2 day seminar about EU water data reporting standards.
- On March 15 – 16 2018, EUWI+ project representatives participated in the first working meeting of GEF/UNECE project concerning the Dniester in Chisinau (Republic of Moldova).
- On 5 April 2018, a preparatory meeting for the establishment of the bilateral Moldovan-Ukrainian Dniester Commission under the 2012 Treaty was held in Chisinau. UNECE provided substantive inputs to the meeting.
- On March 19 2018, a Water working group meeting took place in the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources to discuss a new draft of the Cabinet Ministry of Ukraine Order "Reforming water recourses management system in Ukraine".

3. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Part 3 summarises key regional activities completed in the last quarter.

3.1.1 Regional Steering Committee

Discussions were held with Georgia and the European Commission over potential dates for the Regional Steering Committee Meeting. November was agreed as a suitable date with the need for a progress update ahead of November. The Progress Update has been scheduled for 25-26 April in Minsk, Belarus.

3.1.2 EUWI+ Project Team Meeting

On 17, 18 and 19 January 2018 the implementing partners and local country representatives met in Paris for a team meeting to discuss progress and plan the activities for 2018. Highlights included a discussion of ownership and sustainability of EUWI+ results and progression of plans for the Regional

Steering Committee, a progress meeting with countries, capacity development and finalisation of the inception report.

3.1.3 Regional training and development

- Preparations for the regional workshop on “method validation, measurement uncertainty and metrological traceability in accordance with EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017”, which will be held on April 24 to 26, 2018 in Tbilisi for participants from laboratory practitioners from Belarus, Georgia and Moldova were started.
- Preparations for a regional workshop on developing national water strategies commenced. The workshop will be held back-to-back with a progress reporting meeting in Minsk on 25 and 26 April 2018.

3.1.4 Communication activities

The reporting period was marked by the refinement together with countries’ beneficiaries of the project communication and visibility action plan and developing practical activities in the project countries.

Steps were taken to further improve the project visibility at international level, in particular through participating in important international water-related events such as the 8th World Water Forum in Brasilia and the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region in Geneva:

- The Panel "Water Governance in Europe: How to Add Value Block by Block", took place at the World Water Forum 8 in Brasilia, on 20 March 2018. It was made up inter alia with relevant representatives from European Commission, OECD, and inputs from the French & Austrian experiences. The International Office for Water and the Artois-Picardie French Agency used this opportunity to set out the comments and insights gained from the EUWI+ EAST project in Eastern Partnership countries.
<http://euwipluseast.eu/en/component/content/article/36-post-english/105-water-world-forum-euwi?Itemid=397>
- EUWI Plus was mentioned prominently in the speech delivered by Romania (in its capacity as Chair of the EUWI EECCA Working Group) at the Round Table on Making Universal Access to Water and Sanitation a Reality on SDG 6 at the 2018 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region (Geneva, 1-2 March 2018)
<http://dezvoltaredurabila.gov.ro/web/news/5313/>

On the occasion of the World Water Day several events or actions organised with the participation or under the auspices of the project beneficiaries and partners were carried out and presented through the project web site:

- Water Day in Ukraine with the State Water Agency
<http://www.euwipluseast.eu/ru/component/content/article/37-post-russian/102-the-world-day-of-water-is-celebrating-in-ukraine-2?Itemid=429>
- Water Day in Moldova with the Agency Apele Moldovei
<http://www.apemoldovei.gov.md/libview.php?!=ro&idc=108&id=1011>

Other recent developments include:

Information materials development

- A country specific Leaflet for Moldova (in English and Moldovan)
- “Clean river” project communication flyers in national languages for Azerbaijan and Georgia
- Information flyer on concept of basin planning (infographic) in national languages for Azerbaijan and Georgia
- 1st “Information update” based on the quarterly report material being prepared in English and national language and sent to the project contact list.

Project web-site development and online promotion

- During the reporting period, the project website continues to be populated, more than 20 publications have been posted on the site, new section have been filled in, in particular, on the description of the pilot basins, materials and information on activities currently being carried out by the project are posted. (~50,000 hits since the beginning of functioning). An internal document was prepared with the technical comments regarding the improvement of the EUWI+ website.
- Links established with the web sites of the beneficiaries (AZ, MD, UA) and Delegations (BY, AM), including Preparation of information in national languages for UA and AZ beneficiaries’ websites
- Web-publications on other websites:
 - partners’ websites (~30)
 - beneficiaries websites (AM, MD, UA, AZ)
 - EU delegations (BY, MD, AM, AZ)
 - Regional network – CENN (7), REC (3)
 - Other institutions/ organisations/ projects
- Information was prepared about the EUWI+ project for placement on the website of the focal points and related projects. This information is already uploaded on the MENR website in Ukraine. <https://menr.gov.ua/news/32216.html> and in Azerbaijan <http://eco.gov.az/en/1081-euwi>
- The project accounts created for Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn
 - Facebook page for Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan in launched: <https://www.facebook.com/EUWI-for-Eastern-Partnership-Armenia-Georgia-Azerbaijan-214964305926249/>
- A first draft concept of a Facebook page on “The Dnipro Uniting” was developed.
- Concept of a video-clip (teaser) for awareness rising on the implementation of RBMP based of existing model used in French basins is developed (proposal will be presented and discussed at the April project progress meeting)

Contact database development and newsletter distribution

- The project contact list currently has about 500 contacts and continues to be replenished to be used in particular for the dissemination on the e-news.
- Further development of a IWRM actors list for each country used in particular for the identification of water-related data producer
- Establishment of media-contact list for the dissemination of the press release.
- Information updates disseminated in February for Ukraine (90), Moldova (35), Armenia (30) and in March for Azerbaijan (40) and Georgia (80).

3.1.5 Synergies with other projects/initiatives

Cooperation with GEF project “Dniester”

The GEF Project will produce the first chapters for the Dniester RBMP with local consultants. No guideline or capacity building is expected. Cooperation and coordination is expected with:

- Basin councils where appropriate (“National Basin Council” means Basin Council for Ukrainian part of the Dniester River Basin. “Dniester Commission” concerns the whole River Basin).
- Capacity building/training for experts who will be working on the TDA/WFD article 5 (GEF could consider send them to EUWI+ trainings on the GEF expense).
- Public awareness activities.
- Exchange of information at the project webpage (www.dniester-basin.org).

Cooperation with APENA Project

- In June 2018, with 5 experts, APENA will organise 2 training workshops including presentations, exercises and discussions in 2 Ukrainian towns (11-12 June in Ivano-Frankivsk (1, 5 day); 14-15 June in Poltava (1, 5 day)) for a target group of 30-40 participants from SAWR (Kyiv and regions).
- The agenda will be: RBMP structure and process of development; risk assessment and impacts; FRMP development and protected areas designation.
- EUWI+ will be associated to these WS to participate and share experiences about water bodies delineation, pressures impact assessment, and protected areas

Cooperation with GEF Neman-Bug Project

- UNESCO and UNECE, in cooperation with UNDP Belarus, will be organizing an Inception meeting for the GEF project Fostering multi-sector cooperation over conjunctive surface and groundwater management in the Bug and Neman Transboundary River Basins and the underlying aquifer systems on 16-17 May. Results of the work on the Neman basin within the EUWI+ will inform discussions of the Inception meeting.

Cooperation with ENI SEIS II East project

- On 12-16 March 2018 Water workshop of project ENI SEIS II EAST was held in Minsk with participation of EUWI+ local representative in Belarus.

Cooperation with EU Twinning project on upgrading the National Environmental Monitoring System of Azerbaijan on the base of EU best practices

- Development of a draft agreement in the frame of activity 2.3.6 on data management for the purchase of a web-server as a first step toward the national environmental information system jointly with the EU Twinning project on upgrading the National Environmental Monitoring System of AZ.

Transboundary cooperation

- On 10-12 January 2018 was held bilateral meeting between Belarus and Latvia for transboundary cooperation in the Western Dvina/Daugava basin under financial support of the UNECE.

4. OVERVIEW OF KEY ACTIVITIES PLANNED IN NEXT QUARTER

Part 4 lists key activities and priorities for quarter 2 and 3 2018.

4.1 Key Activities for Quarter 2 and 3 2018

Country	Activity	Timeline
Armenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting of local companies for RBMP development (part 1) for Sevan and Hrazdan basins and commencement of works 	April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting of local company for Groundwater Bodies and the Design/Revision of Groundwater Monitoring Network for Sevan and Hrazdan basins and commencements of works 	April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. QM Mission with SNCO's head of lab Gayane Shahnazaryan 	23-26. April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparatory mission for procurement of equipment and detailed planning of practical laboratory trainings 	23-26. April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of the detailed cost-estimate for EMIC lab relocation and refurbishment and design documents 	May 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of detailed assessment of modern flow measurement equipment needs for irrigation water accounting in Sevan and Hrazdan basins 	May 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting of local company for surface water bodies identification and delineation, and commencement of works 	May 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater delineation kick-off workshop 	14–15 May
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Policy Dialogue Steering Committee Meeting 	19 June 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission related to water data management activities 	June 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of roadmap for implementation of 5 Water Directives 	June 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of data and information collection regarding the Lake Sevan 	July 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of the study on harmful subsidies in irrigation sector of Armenia 	September 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Stakeholder Consultation meeting on the revision of national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health and implementation of the Action Plan on equitable access 	September 2018
Azerbaijan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting of local company for Groundwater Bodies and the Design/Revision of Groundwater Monitoring Network 	April 2018

Country	Activity	Timeline
	for the upper Kura basin and commencements of works	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater delineation kick-off workshop 	7-8 May 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal delineation and monitoring workshop for the Kura Delta of the Caspian Sea in Azerbaijan 	4-5 April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalisation of ToR for refurbishment of Laboratories, preparation of technical specifications for procurement of equipment and detail training planning 	Mid-April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in SW delineation and assessment regional kick-off workshop in Kiev, Ukraine 	23-24 May 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on the Protocol on Water and Health and equitable access to water and sanitation. 	23 May 2018 (tbc)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development (update) of Stakeholder strategy for Kura upstream of Mingechavir Reservoir pilot RBMP Country Communication and Visibility plan to be updated 	April-May 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next NPD steering Committee meeting 	May 22 , 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kick off training session on the work plan for the preparation of RBMP together with the beneficiaries and newly appointed local consultant companies 	23 May (tbc)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission related to water data management activities 	31 May/1 June
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal water pilot work related mission to Baku 	July-August 2018
Belarus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kick-off meeting for Dnieper RBMP refinement 	10 April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data management workshop 	11-12 April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting of local company for Groundwater Bodies and the Design/Revision of Groundwater Monitoring Network for Pripyat basin and commencements of works 	April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater delineation kick-off workshop 	18-19 April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional progress meeting and strategy development workshop in Minsk 	25-26 April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop of project ENI SEIS II EAST in Minsk regarding preparation of the national environmental reports. 	18-19 April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belarus-Lithuania expert meeting on transboundary cooperation in the Neman River Basin in Minsk 	15 May 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESKS workshop under guiding UBA 	15-17 May 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First meeting of the Pripyat basin council 	20 June 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kick-off workshop on the SEA of the Water Resources Management Strategy until 2030RBMP development with water stakeholders under guiding IOW in Minsk 	June29 2018 (TBC)

Country	Activity	Timeline
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting of local company for Groundwater Bodies and the Design/Revision of Groundwater Monitoring Network for Alazani-Iori and Khrami-Debed basins and commencements of works 	April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional workshop on method validation (MV), method uncertainty (MU) and method traceability (MT), for Georgia, Moldova and Belarus, in Tbilisi, Georgia 	24-26 April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater delineation kick-off workshop 	10-11 May 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission related to water data management activities 	May 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender procedure and selection of implementing organization for Khrami-Debed RBMP 	May-June 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Workshop on Ecological Classification and Hydro-morphological Assessment for Caucasus Countries, in Tbilisi, Georgia 	12-14 June 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kick off training session on the work plan for the preparation of Alazani-Iori RBMP together with the beneficiaries and newly appointed local consultant companies 	End of May-July (tbc)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RBM Planning workshops/trainings and Public Consultation for Alazani-Iori Basin 	June-July 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring Design Workshop for Surface and Groundwater Field Surveys 	Mid-July 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct GW, SW, and CW/TW field surveys in Georgia 	September-October 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPD Steering Committee meeting (tbd) 	End of May or middle of June, 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of the work to draft a policy paper providing a vision for further policy developments in preparing the National Water Strategy of Georgia. 	May, 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch of work on the revision of secondary legislation for the draft Water Law 	May-
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch a work on review of developed draft normative act on "Water Quality Ecological Standards of Georgia". 	Quarter 2-Q3
Moldova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting of the CC of NPD in Moldova 	Quarter 2 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing communication strategy, contracting national experts. Supporting DPBS Basin Committee meeting for approving RBMP Supporting EU Delegation, MARDE in organising Europe day and other environmental events (e.g. Danube Day) 	Quarter 2 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiring national contractor for updating of Danube, Prut and Black Sea River district characterisation 	Quarter 2 2018

Country	Activity	Timeline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiring local contractor for support in the update of delineation of groundwater bodies and design of a groundwater monitoring in the pilot river district 	April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater delineation kick-off workshop 	2-3 May 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission related to water data management activities 	14-17 May 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signing contract for organising and supporting tendering for purchasing lab. equipment for monitoring between UBA and main beneficiary MARDE 	Quarter 2 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch of work on the preparation of amendments to the Water Law 	Quarter 2 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch of work on the revision of National Programme to implement the Protocol on Water and Health and implementation of some of its measures 	Quarter 2 2018
Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the Contract on “Preparation of draft revised national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health and their implementation plan” 	March- November 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Stakeholder Consultation meeting on the revision of targets under the Protocol on Water and Health and elaboration of their Implementation Plan 	September 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed contracts on “Development of draft river basin management plan for Dnipro river basin in Ukraine: phase 1, step 1 – Description of the characteristics of the river basin” 	End of April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed contract on “Identification and delineation of groundwater bodies in the whole Dnipro River Basin District in Ukraine” 	End of April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kick-of meeting on groundwater delineation for Dnipro river basin 	End of May 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training on delineation of surface bodies 	End of May 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kick-of meeting on RBMP characterisation 	End of May 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPD meeting in Kyiv 	June 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APENA workshops about RBMP structure and process of development; risk assessment and impacts; FRMP development; protected areas designation 	June 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on data water data management (tbc) 	27-28 June
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dnipro Day celebration 	July 2018
Regional Mission and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Progress Meeting and Strategy Development Workshop, Minsk, Belarus 	25-26 April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional kick-off workshop on surface water delineation and assessment, Kiev, Ukraine 	23-24 May 2018

Country	Activity	Timeline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-regional training workshop on laboratory analysis of water samples, Tbilisi, Georgia; for participations from Moldova, Belarus and Georgia 	24-25 April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-regional training on quantitative and qualitative monitoring of groundwaters for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia 	June 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Workshop on Ecological Classification and Hydro-morphological Assessment for Caucasus Countries, Tbilisi, Georgia 	12-14 June 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Workshop on Ecological Classification and Hydro-morphological Assessment for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, Minsk, Belarus 	19-21 June 2018

Project Summary: EUWI+

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a policy initiative launched at the Prague Summit in May 2009. It aims to deepen and strengthen relations between the European Union and its six Eastern neighbours: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

In recent years, the countries of the Eastern Partnership have demonstrated a willingness to align their water policies and practices with the general principles and specific requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), as well as other thematic and sectoral water directives and UN Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Moreover, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine have assumed commitments to reform water policies and implement the EU water *acquis* as part of the Association Agreements signed with the EU in 2014.

It is in this context that the *European Union Water Initiative Plus* (EUWI+) for Eastern Partnership Countries was initiated by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) of the European Commission.

The overall objective of the project is to improve the management of water resources, in particular of trans-boundary rivers, in the EaP countries. It specifically supports the EaP countries to move towards the approximation to *EU acquis* in the field of water management with a focus on trans-boundary river basin management.

The project is divided into three result areas as follows:

- Result 1: Legal and regulatory frameworks improved in line with the WFD, IWRM and MEAs;
- Result 2: River Basins Management Plans designed and implemented in line with the WFD principles; and
- Result 3: Lessons learnt regularly collected, shared and communicated to stakeholders.

The OECD and UNECE are implementing activities under Result 1. Results 2 and 3 are implemented by an EU Member States Consortium including the Environment Agency Austria (UBA) and the International Office for Water (OIEau / IOWater) of France. Experts from other EU Member States will also be involved in activities of the project.

The project has developed a web portal (<http://euwipluseast.eu/en/>). This web portal constitutes a platform for access, exchange and dissemination of all data, information and services developed and used in the frame of this project.

5. ANNEX A

Annex A contains contact information of key people involved in EUWI+: national focal points and (*ad interim*) local representatives from each EaP country, and contacts from each of the implementing partners.

5.1 National Focal Points and local project representatives

Country	Name	Title	e-mail address
Armenia	Mr Vahan Davtyan	Head of the Water Resources Management Agency, Ministry of Nature Protection	vahan.davtyan@mntp.am
	Mr Volodya Narimanyan	Deputy Head of the State Committee on Water Systems, Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources	narimanyan59@mail.ru
	Mr Vahagn Tonoyan	Local Project Representative for Results 1,2 and 3	vrtonoyan@gmail.com
Azerbaijan	Mr Issa Aliyev,	Head of Propaganda Department MENR	issa.aliyev@gmail.com
	Mr Rasim Sattarzadeh	Head of Environmental Policy Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	rsattarzada@gmail.com
	Mr Rafiq Verdiyev	Local Project Representative for Results 1,2 and 3	rafig2000@mail.ru
Belarus	Ms T. Slizh	Head of Department of Use and Protection of Waters	tanya.sl@tut.by
	Mr Alexandr Stankevich	Local Project Representative of Result 1, and 2 and 3	aps_stankevich@mail.ru
Georgia	Ms. Nino Tandilashvili	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	n.tandilashvili@moe.gov.ge
	Ms. Mariam Makarova	Head of Water Division of the Department of Environment and Climate change, MEPA,	m.makarova@moe.gov.ge
	Mr Zurab Jincharadze	Local Project Representative of Results 2, 3	zurab.jincharadze@gmail.com
	Ms Eliso Barnovi	Local Project Representative of Result 1	ebarnovi@gmail.com

Country	Name	Title	e-mail address
Republic of Moldova	Ms Valentina Tapis,	National Coordinator of the Project, State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment	valentina.tapis@madrm.gov.md
	Ms Serafima Tronza	Senior Officer, Head of the Department of policies for integrated water resources management, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (for Result 1)	serafima.tronza@madrm.gov.md
	Ms Victoria Gratii	Senior Officer, Head of the Department of policies for integrated water resources management, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (for Result 2 and 3)	victoria.gratii@madrm.gov.md
	Ms Svetlana Stirbu	Local Project Representative of Result 1	svetlana.stirbu@gmail.com
	Mr Victor Bujac	Local Project Representative of Results 2&3	victor.bujac@euwipluseast.eu
Ukraine	Mr Mykola Kuzio	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	mykola.kuzio@gmail.com
	Mr Vladyslav Marushevskiy	Head of International Cooperation Division	marushevskiy@menr.gov.ua
	Mr Volodymyr Bilokon	EIWI+ Project Coordinator, Reform Support Team, MENR	v.bilokon@gmail.com
	Ms Nataliia Zaborchevna	Local Project Representative of Result 1	natzakor@gmail.com
	Ms Oksana Konovalenko	Local Project Representative of Results 2 and 3	oksana.konovalenko@euwipluseast.eu

5.2 EUWI+ international implementing team

Organisation	Name	Title	e-mail address
OECD	Mr Matthew Griffiths	Programme Manager	matthew.griffiths@oecd.org
	Ms Tatiana Efimova	Project Manager	tatiana.efimova@oecd.org
	Mr Alexandre Martoussevitch	Project Manager	alexandre.martoussevitch@oecd.org
UNECE	Mr Peep Mardiste	Consultant	peep.mardiste@unece.org
	Mr Alisher Mamadzhanov	Regional Coordinator Environment Division	alisher.mamadzhanov@un.org
Umweltbundesamt GmbH/Environment Agency Austria	Mr Michael Sutter	Project Manager	michael.sutter@umweltbundesamt.at
	Mr Christopher Opancar	Deputy Project Manager	christopher.opancar@umweltbundesamt.at
Office International de l'Eau / International Office for Water	Ms Josiane Mongellaz	Director of International Cooperation	j.mongellaz@oieau.fr
	Mr Pierre Henry de Villeneuve	Project Manager	p.henry-de-villeneuve@oieau.fr
	Mr Paul Haener	Thematic leader for data management	p.haener@oieau.fr
	Mr Philippe Seguin	Thematic leader for RBM Planning	p.seguin@oieau.fr
	Ms Yunona Videnina	Thematic Leader for Communication and Stakeholder Involvement	y.videnina@oieau.fr
EUWI+ project	Mr Timothy Turner	Technical Advisor for Results 2 and 3	trturner@btinternet.com